

Legislative News



January 27, 2012

New Higher Education Legislation

[HJR 57 - Kelly \(D-Columbia\)](#)

The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment allowing the General Assembly to issue up to \$800 million in bonds to fund higher education and other public capital projects. At least \$550 million of the bonds would be for higher education projects and at least 15 percent dedicated to community college projects.

[HJR 68 - Nasheed \(D-St. Louis\)](#)

The resolution proposes a constitutional amendment allowing the General Assembly to issue up to \$55 million in bonds to provide funds for renovating, remodeling and rebuilding buildings of higher education institutions in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County.

[HB 1297 - Davis \(R-Webb City\)](#)

The bill requires the CBHE to adopt a policy requiring every institution of higher education in this state to award educational credits to enrolled veterans for courses completed as part of the students' military training or service which also meet the standards of the American Council on Education or equivalent standards.

[HB 1467 - Nasheed \(D-St. Louis\)](#)

The bill requires MOHELA to reserve \$30 million of its assets to be expended for loan forgiveness in any fiscal year beginning in the calendar year immediately following a calendar year in which the Missouri unemployment rate exceeded 7.5 percent for every month in the calendar year.

[SB 672 - Brown \(R-Rolla\)](#)

The bill contains identical language to HB 1297. See description above.

[SB 681 - Lager \(R-Savannah\)](#)

The bill modifies the composition of the board of regents of Northwest Missouri State University such that no more than two members of the board may reside in the same county.

Bills begin to move through committee

As the 2012 legislative session begins to gain steam, higher education bills are already moving through committees.

The House Committee on Higher Education, chaired by Rep. Mike Thomson (R-Maryville), conducted its first meeting of the session on Tuesday. The committee heard House Bill 1041 and House Bill 1042. House Bill 1041, sponsored by Rep. Thomson and identical to SB 562, would restore the authority of the boards of University of Central Missouri, Harris-Stowe State University, Lincoln University, Missouri State University, Missouri Southern State University, Northwest Missouri State University and Southeast Missouri State University to enter into lease agreements for institution facilities without authorization from the General Assembly. House Bill 1042, also sponsored by Rep. Thomson and identical to SB 455, would modify the duties of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The committee is scheduled to vote on both bills at its

next meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 31.

The Senate Committee on Education, chaired by Sen. David Pearce (R-Warrensburg), did not hear any higher education related bills at its meeting on Wednesday. The chairman has, however, reported SB 455 as do-pass from the committee to the Senate. The bill has been placed on the Senate Perfection Calendar where it currently sits as the seventh bill on the calendar.

The committee is scheduled to hear Senate Bills 483, 562 and 563 at its next hearing on Wednesday, February 1. Senate Bill 483, sponsored by Sen. Scott Rupp, would establish the Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program for students who graduate early from Missouri public high schools. Senate Bill 563 would modify the terms of the Missouri State University Board of Governors so that no more than three members' terms would expire in any given year.

House Appropriations to take testimony from MDHE, institution presidents

The House Appropriations-Education Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 31 to hear the MDHE present its budget, as recommended by Governor Nixon, for fiscal year 2013.

The committee will also take testimony on Wednesday, February 1 from institution presidents at the state's public four-year institutions as well as the Missouri

Community College Association.

Appropriations for higher education, including institution operating appropriations, the budget for the Missouri Department of Higher Education and funding for the state's student financial aid programs, are included in House Bill 3.